

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1 - 9 (Cancelled)

Please add new claims 10-21

10. (New) A method of producing a structured hard chrome layer, comprising deposition chromium from an electrolyte onto a workpiece, said electrolyte comprising:

- (a) a Cr (VI) compound in an amount corresponding to 50 g/l to 600 g/l of chromic acid anhydride;
- (b) 0.5 g/l to 10 g/l of sulphuric acid;
- (c) 1 g/l to 20 g/l of aliphatic sulphonic acid, that comprises 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and
- (d) 10 g/l to 200 g/l of at least one compound forming a dense cathode film, said compound being selected from among ammonium molybdate, alkali molybdate and alkaline earth molybdate, ammonium vanadate, alkali vanadate and alkaline earth vanadate, and ammonium zirconate, alkali zirconate and alkaline earth zirconate,

wherein the cathodic current yield in the production of the structures hard chrome layer is 12% or less.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the Cr(VI) compound is CrO_3 .

12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the aliphatic sulphonic acid is methane sulphonic acid.

13. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the compound forming a dense cathode film is $(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24} \cdot 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}$.
14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the electrolyte contains substantially no fluorides.
15. (New) The method of claim 10, which comprises applying a current density of from 20 A/dm^2 to 200 A/dm^2 to the workpiece.
16. (New) A structured hard chrome layer, obtained by the method of claim 10.
17. (New) An electrolyte, comprising:
 - (a) a Cr (VI) compound in an amount corresponding to 50 g/l to 600 g/l of chromic acid anhydride;
 - (b) 0.5 g/l to 10 g/l of sulphuric acid;
 - (c) 1 g/l to 20 g/l of aliphatic sulphonic acid, comprising 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and
 - (d) 10 g/l to 200 g/l of at least one compound forming a dense cathode film, said compound being selected from among ammonium molybdate, alkali molybdate and alkaline earth molybdate, ammonium vanadate, alkali vanadate and alkaline earth vanadate, and ammonium zirconate, alkali zirconate and alkaline earth zirconate,for carrying out the method of claim 10.
18. (New) The electrolyte of claim 17, wherein the Cr(VI) compound is CrO_3 .
19. (New) The electrolyte of claim 17, wherein the aliphatic sulphonic acid is methane sulphonic acid.
20. (New) The electrolyte of claim 17, wherein the compound forming a dense cathode film is $(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24} \cdot 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}$.
21. (New) The electrolyte of claim 18, having substantially no fluorides.